

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6482

BILL NUMBER: HB 1514

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 19, 2014

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: School board membership in Gary.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Brown C

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill reduces the number of members of the governing body of the Gary Community School Corporation from seven to five, beginning January 1, 2017. It provides that if a vacancy occurs on the governing body before January 1, 2017, the vacancy shall not be filled unless the vacancy reduces the number of members to fewer than five.

The bill provides that three members of the governing body are elected at large by the voters of the school corporation and two members are appointed by the city executive. It provides that the individuals elected to the governing body at the 2014 general election serve as the three elected members of the governing body beginning January 1, 2017.

The bill also repeals and provides for expiration of statutes consistent with the new structure of the governing body.

Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary:* Election ballots in the Gary Community School Corporation (GCSC) may have to be modified to reflect the new structure of the governing body. Formatting ballots would minimally affect Lake County ballot expenditures.

Decreasing the number of members of the governing body by two would also decrease the total amount of the annual stipend awarded to members by up to about \$4,000, plus any per diem expenditures.

The workload of the Lake County Board of Elections and Registration (which processes nomination petitions from school district candidates) would probably decrease; on the other hand that of the office of the Clerk of the Lake Circuit Court (which processes the at-large petitions) would increase.

The impact of the new structure on the operation of the governing body is unknown at this time. Under the bill, the six members representing the school districts would be replaced by two appointed members and two members elected at-large.

Additional Information: Under current law, the governing body of the GCSC consists of seven elected members: one from each of the six school districts and one at-large member. Candidates representing the school districts have to file their nomination petitions with the Board of Elections and Registration; at-large candidates file their petitions with the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. School board members may receive per diem and a stipend of up to \$2,000 annually.

Under this bill beginning in 2017, the number of members of the governing body would be reduced from seven to five. Members would no longer be specifically elected from each school district. The number of at-large members would be increased from one to three; the city executive would appoint the two additional members.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Gary Community School Corporation; Lake County Board of Elections and Registration; Office of the Clerk of the Lake Circuit Court; City executive, Gary.

Information Sources:

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